

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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March 4, 2003

**FROM:** Rudy Lopez, Director  
Department of Behavioral Health

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENT  
SERVICES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve Request for Proposals (RFP) for Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Services for Adults and Children and authorize the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to release the RFP for the service period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2008.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Dedicated acute psychiatric inpatient services for adults and children are currently provided by the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC), Behavioral Health Unit, located in Colton. Acute psychiatric inpatient services are provided to patients who meet medical necessity criteria (i.e. patients who are a danger to self, danger to others, or are gravely disabled as a result of a mental disorder as specified in the Welfare and Institutions Code 5000). At the present time, the County has contracts with Canyon Ridge Hospital, Loma Linda Hospital, Redlands Community Hospital, Victor Valley Community Hospital and Desert Community Hospital. The County accesses beds from these hospitals on a need and availability basis. These current contracts will not be impacted by this RFP.

Recognition of service needs and evaluation of existing service costs lead staff to recommend that San Bernardino County explore potential vendor(s) interested in providing acute inpatient psychiatric services for up to 50 adult beds and/or up to 20 child/youth beds. Any contracts which may ultimately arise as a result of this RFP process would result in the successful Proposer(s) operating inpatient beds, with DBH closely monitoring the contractor's performance under terms of the contract. ARMC would continue to reserve beds for patients who require medical and psychiatric services.

Development of the RFP was a collaborative effort involving DBH and the Human Services System (HSS) Contracts Unit. Approval of this agenda item will allow DBH to formally advertise the RFP and solicit proposals from interested and qualified proposers to provide acute psychiatric inpatient services to adult and child/youth residents of the County. In addition to direct mailings, the RFP will be advertised in local newspapers and posted on the County's Internet site. A committee appointed by the Director of DBH and facilitated by HSS Contracts will review, evaluate and rank all proposals.

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In issuing this RFP, the County is exploring potential availability of services in a manner which would, above all, preserve quality care while effectively maximizing use of resources in support of inpatient treatment. Any recommendations which may result from analysis of RFP responses will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for policy consideration.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This item was reviewed by Deputy County Counsel, Charles Larkin on January 21, 2003, Chief Deputy County Counsel, Ruth Stringer on February 21, 2003 and HSS Contract Compliance Administrative Supervisor, Bruce Fordon on February 24, 2003. This item was also reviewed by the County Administrative Office, Administrative Analyst, Beatriz Valdez on February 21, 2003.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** There is no financial impact associated with release of this RFP. Acute psychiatric inpatient services are funded 100% by State realignment and federal financial participation monies. There is no local match.

**COST REDUCTION MEASURES:** The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the department's proposed action and recommends approval based on the ongoing need to provide high quality, cost effective inpatient mental health services for the residents of San Bernardino County.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S):** All

**PRESENTERS:** Rudy Lopez, Director, 387-7024

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